

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A lymph node detecting apparatus comprising:
an excitation light source unit, illuminating excitation light onto a living body
observation portion that includes a lymph node near a tumor into which a fluorescent dye that
emits fluorescence of a predetermined wavelength has been injected in advance;
an optical filter, transmitting a fluorescence image generated from the living body
observation portion;
an image pickup device, picking up the fluorescence image transmitted through the
optical filter;
an adjusting means, adjusting at least one of a luminance and a contrast of an observation
image output from the image pickup device; and
an image displaying means; displaying the observation image, adjusted by the adjusting
means, as an image for detecting the lymph node, wherein
the optical filter transmits simultaneously, in addition to the fluorescence image, at a
predetermined light intensity, a reflection image from the living body observation portion
illuminated by the excitation light, and
the observation image, in which a fluorescence picture image that corresponds to the
fluorescence image and a normal picture image that corresponds to the reflection image of the
excitation light are overlapped, is obtained ~~as a single image~~ by the ~~single~~ image pickup device,
the excitation light source unit has a plurality of excitation light sources and a supporting
plate, on one surface of which the plurality of excitation light sources are installed,

each of the plurality of excitation light sources is a light source that emits, as the excitation light, light of the same wavelength, and

the plurality of excitation light sources are arrayed two-dimensionally with a central axis of the excitation light source unit, which is matched with an optical axis of the image pickup device, as a symmetry axis.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The lymph node detecting apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the image pickup device is integral with the excitation light source unit.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The lymph node detecting apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the image displaying means is mountable onto a head portion of an observer.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The lymph node detecting apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising an image recording means, recording the observation image adjusted by the adjusting means.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The lymph node detecting apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising: a light guide means for guiding the excitation light from the excitation light source unit to the living body observation portion; and an image guide means for guiding

the fluorescence image from the living body observation portion to the image pickup device; and
being arranged as an endoscopic apparatus.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The lymph node detecting apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the optical filter transmits the reflection image at the light intensity no more than the fluorescence intensity of the fluorescence image.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The lymph node detecting apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the optical filter transmits the reflection image at the light intensity of no more than 10% of the fluorescence intensity of the fluorescence image.